# Elías Documents

Transcribed, translated and footnoted

by

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# Governor Juan de Pineda<sup>1</sup> to Captain Francisco Elías González<sup>2</sup> San Miguel de Horcasitas, January 12, 1765

(Biblioteca Nacional de México, Número 222/900, folios 3-3v)

Muy S. or mio:

si Vm tiene dinero en poder de D.<sup>n</sup> Ambrosio Meabe, y quiere dar una libranza a mi fabor de mil pesos, cuya caridad le devo, por haverme abisado este correo los ha remitido â España como muchos meses ha se lo tenia encargado, lo estimare, y en este caso podia esta carta servir de recibo, mientras hallo occasion de poder satisfacerla, y sino me la debolbera, en inteligencia de que â mi aunq.<sup>e</sup> Vm no tenga proporcion de faborezerme, no me causara el mas minimo sentimiento, pues le consta muy bien con quanta indiferencia miro estos asumptos y â no tener presente las repetidas expreciones, y ofertas que Vm me ha hecho no seria capaz mi jenio de valerme de ellas.

Dios g. de â Vm m. os a. os S. Mig. de Horc. tas y Henero 12 de 1765.

Blm de Vm su S. o S. or

Juan de Pineda (rúbrica)

S. D. Fran. co Elias Gonzalez

### My Dear Sir:

If Your Honor has money on account with Don Ambrosio Meave<sup>3</sup> and you want to write a draft in my favor for a thousand pesos, I will be indebted to your kindness. I have been advised in this mail delivery that the money has been remitted to Spain some many months ago. I will have to be the agent. I will make an accounting and, in this case, this letter will serve as a receipt. In the meantime I will find opportunity to be able to satisfy the debt.<sup>4</sup> If you should not return it to me, and if the knowledge of such should come to me, even though your honor may not have occasion to thus favor me, it will not cause me the least of ill feeling.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, the indiff-erence with which I view these matters is very well evident, and the repeated expressions and offers that Your Honor has made to me, are not born in mind. My nature is not capable of placing any value on these things.

God keep Your Honor many years. San Miguel de Horcasitas, January 12, 1765 Your certain servant kisses the hand of Your Honor Juan de Pineda (rubric)

To Señor Don Francisco Elías González

### Captain Francisco Elías González to Governor Juan de Pineda Terrenate, March 5, 1765

(Biblioteca Nacional de México, Número 225/903, folios 1-1v)

S. Gov. Or y Cap. Gen. D. Juan de Pineda Mui S. mio;

con veras de mi maior estimasion recivi la de V.S. sudata âlos <u>26</u> de el pasado y ha causa dela emfermedad que tenia gravada No Âvia dado satisfacion âla que ânterior tenia recivido sobre el âbsumpto dela livranza que vs me suplica pero mejorase de mis males y en combalesencia de hellos Gloria a Dios: No escusan mis âtentos deseos de servirle âun en materias de maior ynportancia; remitense, la libranza delos un mil p.<sup>s</sup> con el seguro que en higuales motivos hallara mi afecto propicio etc.

Dios gûe avs. m. s a. s Terrenate y Marzo 5 de 1765 a. s Blm. a vs su mas seg. s serv. Fran. co elias Gonzalez (rúbrica)

### Lord Governor and Captain General Don Juan de Pineda My Dear Sir:

Truly, with my greatest respect, I received that of Your Lordship dated the 26th of the past month. Because of the sickness with which I have been afflicted I had not answered the one that I had received before on the subject of the draft that Your Lordship asked me for. However, I have gotten better from my afflictions and am recuperating from them. Glory be to God, they do not prohibit my attentive desires to serve you, especially in matters of such great importance. I am remitting the draft for the thousand pesos with the assurance that on similar occasions you will find my affection favorable, etc.

God keep Your Lordship many years. Terrenate, March 5, 1765. Your most certain servant kisses the hand of Your Lordship. Francisco Elías González (rubric)<sup>10</sup>

## Captain Francisco Elías González to Governor Juan de Pineda Terrenate, September 25, 1765

(Biblioteca Nacional de México, Número 225/903, folios 2-2v)

S.<sup>r</sup> Gov.<sup>or</sup> y Cap.<sup>n</sup> Gen.<sup>l</sup> D.<sup>n</sup> Juan de Pineda Mui señor mio;

por la de Vs. y la de D.<sup>n</sup> Ambrosio Meave quedo entendido âberse recivido la Livranza cuio ymporte no se haze presiso se entregue â sujeto âlguno sino que la mantenga vs en si hasta nuestra vista que sera vreve y deseo verle para darle un abrazo. siendo me ânimo hir a temperamento mas begnino p.<sup>a</sup> âcabar de desechar los males aunque gracias a D.<sup>s</sup> me hallo a la presente bueno de todos mis miembros sin tener cosa q.<sup>e</sup> me perjudique. solo timido de montar âcavallo por estar resiente enla combalesiencia.

Nrô señor gûe a vs m. s a. s Terrenate y sep. e 25 de 1765 a. s Blm. a vs su af. s eg. e serv. Fran. e elias Gonzalez (rúbrica)

### Lord Governor and Captain General Don Juan de Pineda My Dear Sir:

I understand from your letter and that of Don Ambrosio Meave<sup>11</sup> that you have received the draft, the amount of which was not precisely what I sent for that end but enough to maintain Your Lordship until our next meeting, which will be soon as I desire to see you and give you a hug. I have been revived to go forward with a more healthy cons-titution to finish overcoming my infirmities, even though, thanks be to God, all my members are presently in good health without anything to hinder me, except I am fearful of riding a horse,<sup>12</sup> having been recently in convalescence.

Our Lord keep Your Lordship many years. Terrenate, September 25, 1765. Your most affectionate and secure servant kisses the hand of Your Lordship. Francisco Elías González (rubric)

# Captain Francisco Elías González to Governor Juan de Pineda Terrenate, September 9, 1766

(Biblioteca Nacional de México, Número 225/903, folios 3-3v)

S. Gov. or y Cap. Gen.

En virtud de el ynforme y parecer que vs. me pide en asumpto âla dispocicion y providencias que se estan proyectando âfin de levantar compañias Micianas, digo que en la estacion presente, No concidero por util ni precisa la fromacion de estas compañias. Respecto de haverse bajado la maior parte dela Nacion Nueva mente sublevada. Reservandolas solo hasta el tiempo mas comodo y oportuno para su mejor âsirto que de estas en caso de nesecidad ô movimientos de el enemigo se puede echar mano de hellas pues antes fueran ynnu tiles los gastos que puedan ôcacinar, que en llegandose la nececidad forzosa para levantar dhas compañias para que âgan el sev.º de su Mag.d dando en percecucion de los enemigos que Obstilizan estas Prov.s y para que estas siempre se hayen âctos âtodos las expediciones soy de sentir seles puede âsignar âcada Milicino veinte p.s percuadido que deeste sueldo âbra de salir Armas cavallos y demas necezario para el serv.º en la enteligencia que dhas compañias se formen de cavalleriâ que son las que podran servir para con mas facilidad conseguir la mente de su Mag.d fecho en este Real Precido de Terrenate en nueve días de el mes de Sep.re de mil setecientos sesenta y seis años y lo firme.

Fran. co elias Gonzales

### Lord Governor and Captain General

By virtue of the report and what appears that Your Lordship has asked me on the subject of the disposition and foresight of that which they are projecting, to raise militia companies, <sup>13</sup> I say that I do not consider it useful or necessary to form these companies under the present conditions. Considering that the major part of the nation<sup>14</sup> has newly descended into insurrection, it should be reserved until a more convenient and opportune time when the best strike can be made against these [rebels]. In case of necessity or movement of the enemy, assistance could be given by [such units]. However, before that they would be useless due to the costs that would be incurred, and to accomplish it, force would be necessary to raise the said companies to perform service to His Majesty by persecuting the enemies that antagonize these provinces, which should always be the action of all their expeditions. I am of the belief that each militiaman could be issued twenty pesos, being persuaded that from this wage would come arms, horses, and all else that is necessary for the service.<sup>15</sup> This is in the understanding that the said companies should be made up of cavalry, 16 which would be able to serve with the greatest facility according to the will of His Majesty. Dated and signed in this Royal Presidio of Terrenate on the 9th of the month of September of 1766.

Francisco Elías González

# Captain Francisco Elías González to Governor Juan de Pineda Terrenate, November 22, 1766

(Biblioteca Nacional de México, Número 225/903, folios 4-6)

S.<sup>r</sup> Gov.<sup>or</sup> y Cap.<sup>n</sup> Gen.<sup>l</sup>
D.<sup>n</sup> Fran.<sup>co</sup> elias Gonzales Cap.<sup>n</sup> por su Mag.<sup>d</sup> deel Real P.<sup>o</sup> se s.<sup>n</sup> Phe. de Gracia Real de Therrenate:

en virtud dela carta horden de vs y dela copia que me incluye de el s. Yntendente Gen. d. Jph Galbes. la que contiente catorce capitulos de el R. servicio y me hordena vs exponga mi parezer en uno por uno lo que executo en esta forma, En el primero digo. Queno jusgo vastante la cantidad expresada p. los dos âsumptos. Manejando este caudal con economia si se consigue el primero; poco quedara p. el segundo. Jusgo tambien impractecable en estas Prov. el Arreglo de europa âcausa delo mucho que se âcrese con los transportes âlos efectos que de Mex. es conducen y los viveres ôya por lo despobla dela tierra ôya p. la Natural decidie de sus âbitadores. ôpor las escases delas aguas por lo comun en las Prov. no âbundan y esa misma

escases los tiene siempre subidos deprecio âun el Arreglo de mex.<sup>co</sup> en estas tierras no fuera suficiente mucho menos sera elde la Europa.

segundo. Para âcer mas prompta efecticia y segura la expedicion que se intenta tengo por inutil la tropa traida de mex. co respecto q. e âunque âlla se suponga veterana. nolo es p. e estos Paises, por quanto, âlas Armas ôfencivas de estos Barbaros solo sepuede ôponer el expedito manejo delas defencivas, que esta Tierra usa y este se adquiere con largo uso y el exercicio de hallarse en varias Batallas. âqui se âñade que aqui no secombate con un solo Enemigo sino con varios, y âlas veses mas penosos como es el hambre sedes exsesivos Bochornos selvas espesas de espinas y cambrones inacsesibles peñascos y el âlibio p.ª todos estos âfanes deel soldado es comer a veses un pedaso de viscocho duro una poca de Arina de mais tostado unos trosos de rez secada âel sol vever Aguas salobregas dormir âel cuvirto deel sielo aun muchas veses este âlivio seles niega por ofrecerse estar toda la noche sobre las Armas teniendo âlguna furtiva imbacion de el Enemigo, y asi Gente que no este âcostumbrada âtolerar estos âfanes; presto perdera la salvo y se innutilisara p. a el R. servicio. el pensar que de ôtro modo sepuede mantener la tropa enesta tierra es mâsequible porque el Pais no lleva de suio ôtra cosa. con menos espensas sepuede sacar gente dela Governacion de Nuevo Mex. co y Paso de el Norte. Gente vetera yapropocito para esta Guerra por lo mas semejante en modales y contumbres âla de sonora y en tal caso sedeveran prover delos oficiales correspondientes que los comanden.

Tercero Las repetidas esperiencias ân enseñado que tropa de quinientas hasta setecientos hombres co.sean llegado âjuntar p.ª la guerra deel seri escorta por ser largo el distrito que la tropa deve guarneser ôya sea en serro prieto. comun âsilo de el enemigo. que âunque el nombre yndica ser un solo sero es en realidad sierra deel sircuito de âlgunas leguas y en su recinto tiene muchos escondrijos de Caxones âsperos y Barrancas profundas ôya en las ôtras sierras donde se Guaresen ôya en las Plallas del mar âque sejunta que son indispensables canoas ô Barcos conla gente suficiente para el fin de que siel Enemigo sepasa ael Tiburon sele pueda continuar la guerra. p.ª dar expediente atodas estas operaciones Jusgo necesario tropa de mil quatrocientos hombres en esta forma docientos soldos Arreglados delos Precidios / dejando con el vezindario delos mismos Precidios a cuvirto estas fronteras para q.º interim sele hase guerra ael seri. No âcabe el Apache de Ôbstilisar estas fronteras / docientos milicianos âlistados de la

Governacion quatrocientos dragones âlistados delos parajes expresadas y si estos no pudieren por âlgun âcaecimiento conqurrir puede suplirse con mil augiliares Yndios sacados de esta Provincia. tropa de Ynfanteria de ningun modo es util. en estas tierras por las largas distancias q.e es forsoso trancitar p.a perseguir el Enemigo y âvezes p.a al camar Âgua q.e Bever. p.a el efecto de coronar las sierras es âpropocito la Cavalleria de estas tierras porq.e la misma fragoscidad delas sierras no les permite montados superarlas sino âpie como lo â costumbran cada y quando sus ôficiales selos manden.

Quarto. la estacion mas Oportuna para esta guerra la Jusgo desde ôctre hasta Marzo por no fatigan entonses las calores y aber alguna mas âgua en los Aguajes âcausa delas aguas nieves q.º en esta tierra llaman Equipatas que suelen caer por el hivierno. conjeturar el tiempo que la guerra puede durares mui dificil solo si puedo desir de esperiencia que las ventajas que no sepudieren conseguir enlas primeras entradas y meses con dificultad se lograrar en mas largo tiempo por q.º los primeros âvanzes los espera el enemigo junto pero si en hellos padese notable quebranto / como esperamos en Dios / los âugiliares Pimas q.º son los que âbultan mas su campo se internaran âsus tierras y el seri des samparados de hellos podra dividerse en menudas tropas en

destintos y distantes peñoles y con esto el campo de Batalla sera demas sircunvalacion y por consiguiente la guerra mas proliga y demas duracion. sobre los Yndios Alzados delos Pueblos que obstigados dela guerra haellos se regresaren sedeveran tomar las precauciones correspondientes.

Quinto. las Armas de Terrenate. Tube. y Altar deveran entrar por el Anstuaba recorriendo el plan de el enemigo sierra delas espuelas y carrizal. las de fronteras S.<sup>n</sup> Mig.<sup>l</sup> deveran marchar por el Aguaje. lasde Buenavista conla tropa miliciana por Yaqui de modo que todo el campo se halle en un dia en serro prieto. enel que si el enemigo se en sierra como lo âcostumbra hazer la situacio delas es las subgerira los medios mas ôportunos para sus abanse si vien tengo por indispensable que los principles âguajes de dha sierra se guarnesian con guarnicion permanente y que pueda cada una de hellas âzer resistencia del enemigo.

Sespto = su Mag.<sup>d</sup> tiene en cada Precidio Armamentos p.<sup>a</sup> cincuentas hombres estos me percuado serviran p.<sup>a</sup> Paisanos de dhos Precidios q.<sup>e</sup> quedaron para guardia y custodia de sus fronteras.

Secptimo. lo mando se la providencias nesesarias no faltaran viveres p.<sup>a</sup> la tropa expresada. Ôctavo âbiendose precisamente de consumir el sueldo de el soldado en comer y Bestir p.<sup>a</sup> haorro de gastos sepodra condusir la mitad de el situado en xeneros de los que los Mercaderes practicos de el comerzio de esta tierra en mex.<sup>co</sup> allaren ser consumibles la ôtra mitad en reales menudos.

Nono es medio mui economico el conducir por âgua todo lo condusiente p.ª esta guerra solo tiene encontrarlos peligros deel Mar

Dizimo: en toda esta costa no se hallan maderas ni construidores de embarcaciones. Dese las canoas de el Busco son de mui corto Buque y por con siguiente inneptas p.<sup>a</sup> trasportes de gente y municiones sin exponerlo todo â ebidente riesgo y oy parese ser demas corto numero q.<sup>e</sup> nunca

13 los Buques para ebitar muchos viajes que sean dela maior cavida que se pueda 14 y ultimo en sonora si seis u ôcho tienen que comer lo sole mas viven de el Credito â que se añade que abiendo sido quasi desde la conquista esta Tierra Ôbstilisada delos Enemigos han contribuido repetidas veses y quando tenian facultades con liberalidad oy que no las tienen poco ônada podran contribuir.

Real P. de Terrenate y Nobre 22 1766 a.<sup>s</sup> Fran.<sup>co</sup> elias Gonzales Lord Governor and Captain General

Don Francisco Elias Gonzalez, Captain for His Majesty of the Royal Presidio of San Felipe de Gracia Real of Terrenate:

By virtue of the written order of Your Lordship and the copy of the letter that was included from the Lord Intendant General Don José Gálves,<sup>17</sup> which contained fourteen points of the Royal Service, I was mandated by Your Lordship to expound on them one by one as things appear to me. Concerning the first, I say that I do not judge the quantity expressed to be sufficient for the two matters. Managing the fund with economy, if the first is followed, there will be little left for the second. I also judge the European regulation to be impractical for these provinces because of the great increase in transportation costs for the supplies and provisions that are brought from Mexico; moreover, because of the uninhabited lands; moreover, because of the natural laziness of its inhabitants; or, because of the scarcity of water that is common in these provinces. It is not abundant and this same scarcity has always raised costs, even with the regulation of Mexico. In this country it has never been sufficient and the European regulation would be much less so.

Second. I say that to make the most prompt, effective, and secure expedition a troop brought from Mexico would be useless. With respect to its supposedly being a veteran troop, it would not be veteran to these parts. For instance, the offensive weapons of these barbarians can only be opposed with the defensive methods used in this country, that have been acquired through long use and exercise of the same in various battles. I would also add here that we are not fighting one, but various enemies. At times the most grievous is hunger, thirst, and excessive heat, not to mention the thick growths of spiny plants and thorn bushes and inaccessible rock outcroppings. At times the only relief that the soldier has from these afflictions is to eat a a piece of hard-tack, a little toasted corn flour, some pieces of sun jerked beef, drink brackish water, and sleep beneath the sky. Many times, however, this little relief is negated by having to be on armed guard all night because of some stealthy invasion by the enemy. So, the health of people who are not accustomed to tolerating these hardships is quickly lost and they become useless to the Royal Service. The thought of maintaining the troop in this country, on the other hand, is more equitable because this country raises no other type of troop. People could be recruited from the government of New Mexico or El Paso del Norte – veterans, as already spoken of, who are more similar in manners and customs to the people of Sonora and in every case would prove themselves to the corresponding officers who command them.

Third. Repeated experience has shown that a troop of five to seven hundred men put together for a war against the Seris is small because of the large district that the troop must garrison. That would be the Cerro Prieto, the common stronghold of the enemy. Even though the name would indicate that it is a single

hill, in reality it is a mountain range several leagues in circumference. There are many hiding places in craggy canyons and deep ravines in the area that it covers. Furthermore, there are other mountains they occupy. There are also the beaches of the ocean where it is indispensable to gather canoes and boats with sufficient men that in case the enemy flees to Tiburón [Island] the war against them can be continued. I would judge that for all these operations to be expedient a troop of one thousand, four hundred men would be necessary in the following form: two hundred regular soldiers from the presidios (remaining with the settlers of these same presidios to cover this frontier in the interim while the war with the Seris is being conducted, because the Apaches have not finished committing hostilities on this frontier); two hundred enlisted militiamen from the government; four hundred dragoons enlisted from the expressed places. If these, for some reason, cannot conquer the enemy, they can be supplied with a thousand Indian auxiliaries recruited from this province. No infantry troop of any kind is useful in this country due to the long distances they are forced to march to pursue the enemy and at times to search for water to drink. To this effect, reaching the ridge tops of the mountains is the purpose of the cavalry of this country. Because the same cragginess of the mountains does not allow men on horseback to conquer them, but only men on foot, all the cavalrymen are accustomed to traveling that way when their officers command it.

Fourth. I would judge that the best season for this war would be from October until March because the heat is not so devastating during that time. Also, the water holes produce a little more water because of the runoff from the snows that fall during the winter, called "equipatas" in this country. It is very difficult to guess the amount of time the war might last. I can only say from experience that the advantages that cannot be obtained during the first campaigns and in the first months can only be gained with difficulty over a longer period of time. This is because the enemy stays united during the first advances, but if a noteworthy injury is inflicted on them to break them up (which we hope to God happens), the Pima auxiliaries, who are the most populous group in their country, will penetrate their lands and the Seris will abandon them to divide into small bands in distinct and distant rocky promontories. With this the battlefield becomes much more difficult to surround. It follows that the war becomes more tedious and of longer duration. Concerning the rebellious Indians of the villages molested by the war, corresponding precautions must be taken to get them to return.

Fifth. The forces from Terrenate, Tubac, and Altar should enter [the battle] from Anstuaba to survey the enemy positions in the Espuelas and Carrizal Mountains. Those from Fronteras and San Miguel should march to Aguaje. Those from Buena Vista and the militia troop should come through the Yaqui country in such a way that the entire camp should arrive at the Cerro Prieto on the same day. Then if the enemy is there we can close them in as is customary to do. The situation of these [Seris] suggests more opportune steps be taken to make a successful advance. I consider it indispensable that the principal water holes of the

said mountains be guarded with a permanent garrison and that each of them be able to resist the enemy.

Sixth. His Majesty has a force of fifty men at each presidio. I am persuaded that these should serve as citizens of the said presidios who remain behind as guards and custodians of the frontier.

Seventh. The commanders should have the foresight necessary so that the said troop will not lack for provisions.

Eighth. The wage of the soldier having been set precisely to be consumed by food and clothing to save costs, half of this could be supplied in consumable goods by the expert merchants of the trade community in this country through Mexico. The other half could be paid in royal monies.

Ninth. It is only half way economical to transport what is needed for this war by water because of the dangers that are necessarily encountered at sea.

Tenth. The costs for wood and ship builders are not found in all of this.

Twelfth. The canoes for searching are very short boats and it follows that they are unfit for transporting men and munitions without exposing them to the evident risk. Furthermore, it appears that there is a smaller number of them today than there were previously.

13. To avoid numerous trips, the boats should be of the greatest capacity possible.

14 and last. In Sonora if six or eight have to eat they can only live by credit, to which I would add that they have contributed repeatedly to this land, so vandalized by the enemies, nearly since the conquest. If they had the power, with their generosity, they would do the same today, but they have little or nothing to contribute.

Royal Presidio of Terrenate, November 22, 1766. Francisco Elías González

ne dineso en poda de D. Broto Meace, y accese de una istanta a mi fasoide mil besol caya carrias le Devo, sor haverne abisado este couseo el na remitido à Cipana como muchos mues ha le lo lenia encargado, lo eshmare yen esk caso tore esta Casta Jesura de Recióo, mienhas halo rocasion de poder Vaporacesta y linone La de bolbera, en incloe. cra de que a mi aura.

no teroa proporcion de fato rezerne, no me carrara el mas minimo tentimiento, ou. es le consta muy bien con quanta indiferencia mino estor asumphor y a noteres presente las repetidas extil Mones y o estas que Um me na hecho no reua capaz mi jenio de valeine de ellas wol greatmin 122e1765 mm w.

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ayn en material de maia ynpor tancia; Minister, la Librania clobs mmilp. Con el securio que en hisuales motivos hallana mi a recto propiere & mas. Tennenate of Max C . C& 1769 Crun elias on reder 8) yor y cap yen ? Juan & Inesa ellu senon muo; por la se is ~ de B Ambrosio Meaux que so entensi do abense Meemso la Livranza cuis Importe No se hane presiso se entreçue à su eto alourso sino que la mantença ys en si hasta Muestro vista qui sera viene nele ses ver para sarle matrace. sunsom

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500 qui enla estación pricente. No conciserso por 14il ni precisa la formación de estas Compañías. Vispecto Laurse valaro la Manor parte rela Locuon Muna mente sublivava. Miseruanovilas solo hanta el tumpo mas comoso y Sportuno para su me lon a sinto gui se estas pur se de han mano se hellas jours antes funan Innu tile lo Dastos qui pursan ocadinar, qui en llicansose tennosa pana buantan The Ompanias

oana que avan el ser se su Mas. danso en perceucior chos Enemuos que Obstilian estas Jaor. y paria que estas siempu se hayen actor atoras lus & de sentia seles puro a sonar acasa Milicino vente per cuanto qui reste suelo abra de salir Armas Cavallos Vothas companias se formen de cavalbua qui son las qui podxan sexux baxa con mas factions consecuir la mente & su Mas? fecho en este Mal Precios de Texunate en nume chas el el mes de sejo. de mil setecientos sesenta y seis anos 6 finm= n elias Gonzalest

xan. duas Gomales Cop. por su Mac. reel Wat Jose Mal selhenunate: en Vintus sela canta honsen se vi y dela Copia que me incluye del 3 Intensente Gen 3. 16h Galbes la que conti Capitales chel V senuocis, y mi honsent vi desponda mi parmen en uno ponvao Lo que executo en esta forma Enel prumero Diso. Tuno susop wasiante Cantidas Expresava p. les clos asumptos. mans anvo este Cauvail con économis si se con sum el primero; poco guroria lo el segundo. luco tambien impracti Cable en estas nov. el dans lo se evaspa acausa delo mucho qui se acause Fon les transportes ales efectes qui de med. se conquer y les vivexis de bon le despoble sela Turra oya po la Matura l'elecisie se sus abitasones. O las escases delas Quas por lo comun en las Prov. no abuncan y esa muma es cases les Tune sumpre, sulvous se pracio, amel Annolo de me . 8. en es rus Tunxas no huna suficiente mucho minos sena else la Erropa. Seo unos Para anex mas prompta efectua y seoura la emperición que se intenta tenso por inutil la tropa. Traisa se mess. Vispoedo g'arnque alla se suponoa veterana nols es po estos lavies. por guanto a la Anmas o-senavas de estos Bantanos solo repourse oponer el espesito manufo selas se fencinas qui esta Tunno via y este se adquien con lano, vio y el enercicio de hallor se en Danias Batallas. aque se anave que aque No secombate con un solo En muy smo con varues, y alas veses mas penosos como a el hambre seren. Dienvos to chonnos selvas espesas de Espinas y Cambronu macienbles nover y el alino por todor estor afance de el soborso es como a veses

perasa de visco cho duro ma poca re Anna remais tostaro mos trosos re Ma secara ael sol vever Aouas salobrious clorina ael cirinto reel sulo arn muchas veses este aliun seles- Musa por ofrecerse estar tora la Noche sobre las Armas Temiento alouna furnua imbacion de el Enemios. gasi Gente que No este acostumbia sa atole rar estos afaires; presto persocra la salus y se innutilizara pel V servicio. el pen san qui se otro moso se puese mantener la Tropa enesta Turra es maseguible por que el Paus no Meua che sun otra cora- con menos espensas sejouese sacar Gente de Governación de Muis me Ring lans de el Monte. Gente velera napoxo poruto paro esta Gunza por lo mui sem fante en morales y costumbres a la se na yental caso reseuran possur dels Spicales connes ponsuntes que les Tencero las Moenoas Esperuencias an enseñavo qui topa de guinientos hasta setecientos, hombres co sean Mucaso afuntar po la Querra del Seri Esconta por sen lango el eluturo que la tropa chu Quannisen o ya sea en senno pruto. como aulo de el crumos. qui avagui el Nombre ynoica sen m solo sero ex en Molioan sunna chel sincuito che alounas lequas y en su Mainto tune muchos escononi fos & Carsone cuperos y parrances profundas o ya enlas otras surras sonoe se Qua ne sen o ya enlas lances sel Mon ague sejunta que son insuspensables cansas o Bancos con la geme su ficiente para el fin de que sul Enimo, sepasa cul non sele pursa continuar la Guerra. p. dan enperiente atoras estas openacione nuce iones tropa de mil quarrocientos hom brus. en esta forma docuento se des Annolasos delos Trecesios/dejanso con el vennoano delos mumos Preciono a cuvixto estas fronteras para g'interin sele hase Duerra a el seri no aca b el Spache se Doinhiar estas fromeras/docientos Milicionos alistasos se la Go renacion quatro ciemos diagones, alistaros relos para les Expositaras y 11 estos no pusuren por abun acacamiento conquenta purse ruplivie con mil augiliares

Insus sa caros de esta Inonincio. Inspa se Infantena se Minoun moso co ytil enestas lierra por las lavas dutancias que for 1010 lameiran p numulo y avere paleaman Abua g Beven. po el efecto a e mon las Junnas es apris po cuto la Covollino se estas Tunnas por q la misma napocidas cletas Sennos notes penmite Montavos superarlas sina afou come a costumbian Casa y quanzo sus Opciales selos mandan. Luanto. la estación mas Opontuna pana esta Ouenta la luso o close och i hasta Mano por no fatuan entonses las Calones y aben alouna mas aoua entes Aoua les acousa velas avuas Nuues q enesta luxa llaman C sulm caen por el hunenno. con ferunan el Tumpo que la Durna pourse es mui difial solo ni pueso de na se esperienda que las venta las que no repusi exen Coniecuia enlas primeras ennavas y mues con oficultar se lo oxaxax en mas laros lumpos por q los primeros avantes los espera el chemio funto pero n'en hillos parese Notable quibranto como esperamos en pos / los ais haves timas q son los que abultan mas su Campo se internazan asus turnas 7 el 1en de sampana sos de hellos possa dimense en menura tropas en Volustintos y distantes pensles, y con esto el campo de Datana sexa como sur Cunvalacion y por conjumente la Durna mas proliva y de mas sunacion. 10= du les Indies Ahanor deles lubles que obinoavor vela Ouenna haulles se Mone lanen leversion to man las pou cauciones connes ponountes. Junto las Armas se texunate. Tube y Man dunan entran porst Anduaba Manni enos of plan de el chemis suna selas dipular y camural. las de frontezas I Mio. churan manchan pon el Loud le las de Buena vista con la Inopa Miliciana por laque el moro que toro el campo se hatte en moro en lenno pruto enel que si el chi muos se on surra como lo acortumbra hanon

la situació culas coras subornina los misus mas opontunos pana su aban 12 si vun tenos por mospen sable quelos prinaples aquales de cha surna se Quarnes Con Con Quarnicion permaninte y qui puiva Cava ma ve lullas oner Mustencia Sespito Ju Masturi en casa Triosco Armamentos p cin aunto hombres ester me percuaso serusan p. les lavanes de ches freceses q que saran para Quanna y custona cle sus fronteras secotimo tomanzo se la provisencias nescianas no fatinan vivence p. la Tupa empurasa Octaus aliendore precumente de conjumin el relos del soldado en comer y menis p. haoris de Dantoi reporta consulta la mitar del studio en Beneros de los que los Mencasenes practicos de el comento, de cora Tuerra en mes, allaun ser con sumibles la otra mitar en Males minuros. Nono es muio mui ternomico el consucer por doua toro la consuiente p. esta Durana solo tune encontrartos pelionos del Mari Derimo entoda esta corta no se hallan madences ni constaudores o embarca cono = Dese las Cano as diel Buies ion semus conto rougue y por con incuento mostes p. trasportes se Gente y municiones un esponento toso à élisente Vierge y oy pan ie len semas conto nume no q nunca 13 les Bugues pana Chitun muchos via les que sean dela maion. Caui da qui se pue oa 12 y rinmo en sonona il les rocho turun qui comen los mas viven chel Cumto a que 11 anase que ahenso 1000 quasi serse la Conquera esta lucina Dominasa delos Enemos han contru

buso Moenoas veses y guanzo ternan facultares con liberalizar on gui no las tunen poco onava journan Contubuun. Mal I. de Terunate y Ditte 2 1 1166 ...

Tran clias fonzalez

<sup>1</sup> Ivan Claudia da Dinada was savama

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Juan Claudio de Pineda was governor of Sonora from 1763 to 1770. It was during his tenure that troops were brought in from Mexico City and Spain to fight the great Seri War. In prosecution of the Seri campaign he suffered a stroke one morning while mounting his horse in the Cerro Prieto, and although he did not die at that time, the stroke was so debilitating that he had to relinquish his governorship before the war ended. (see AGN, PI 226, *Elizondo a Croix, Pitic, 21 de Agosto de 1769*, f.49)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Francisco Elías González was the captain at the Royal Presidio of Terrenate in northern Sonora from 1753 to 1770. Due to an incapacitating illness he did not participate in the Seri war and was forced to relinquish his captaincy in 1770, even though he lived another twenty years. (For a brief biography the captain see James E. Officer, *Hispanic Arizona*, 1536-1856, Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1987, pp. 317-318. See also Armando Elías Chomina, *Compendio de Datos Históricos de la Familia Elías*, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, 1986)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ambrosio de Meave was a Basque from Durango, Vizcaya, Spain living in Mexico City. He managed the national silver bank of New Spain for 13.5% of the profits, as well as the massive Fagoaga import business. As a banker and financier he was one of the most powerful men (if not the most powerful) of his day in all of New Spain. (See D.A. Brading, *Miners and Merchants in Bourbon Mexico*, 1763-1810. London: Cambridge University Press, 1971, p.120)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Exactly what this debt was, with moneys being sent to Spain, is unknown at this time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Captain Elías González had been extremely ill for some time with an unknown sickness. It appears that Pineda is allowing him some leeway here because of it. Whatever the illness was, it had kept him from performing his duties as the captain of a presidial cavalry unit, and is very evident in his shaky hand while executing his signature (compare his signature on the next two letters with those on the last two documents). In sending his service records to the viceroy in 1767, Governor Pineda said, "This captain says he served in the Presidio of Janos for four years and five months, concluding the report of his service by saying that he has served His Majesty twenty years. I cannot inform you of his action, conduct, and valor because he has been sick most of the time that I have been in these provinces. In light of which, he has not done anything. However, I have heard it said that he has the qualities of a good soldier." (See AGN, PI 47, *Oja de Servicio de Capitán Don Francisco Elías Gonzales, Noviembre 30 de 1767*, f. 266)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Horcasitas was the capital of Sonora at this time. It is about thirty miles northeast of present-day Hermosillo, Sonora

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The original Presidio of Terrenate, from which this letter was sent, lies about fifteen miles due south of the international border between Arizona and Sonora. It is about thirty miles northwest of Cananea, Sonora and the same distance northeast of the old mission of Cocóspera. It is about five miles east of present-day Santa Cruz, Sonora, or what was once the old mission of Santa María Suamca.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> It is obvious from this information that the foregoing letter sent by Governor Pineda to Captain Elías González was the first of two that were sent before the captain remitted the thousand-peso draft.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The formality of letters of the time went beyond the custom of today in which we start with "Dear ..." and end with "Sincerely...," even when the person we are writing to may not be "dear" and we may not be "sincere." In that era, even if the two people hated each other, they generally always ended with "kissing" the other person's hand (besa la mano), or even "kissing his feet" (besa los pies), often abbreviated "Blm" or "Blp."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> A person's rubric was as unique as his signature. In fact, much as we would "initial" something without our full signature today, people of that day would "rubric" things that did not require a full, formal signature. Although, neither Pineda's nor Elías González's rubrics are very elaborate, they are unique (compare the rubric after Governor Pineda's signature on page 4 to Captain Elías González's rubrics on pages 8, 12, 16, and 26).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The fact that Elías González was dealing with Meave tells something of his character and standing in New Spain. It was not just anyone who had business dealings with this most powerful of bankers and financiers. Often, one sees a connection through Basque heritage, and this may well be the case here, considering that the Captain was born in La Rioja Valley, just a few miles from the Basque province of Navarra. It also points to the fact that, even though the tone of the correspondence at this time in his life when he was old and sick tends to be negative, he was well-respected and fully capable of associating in the highest social circles of New Spain.

<sup>12</sup> Governor Pineda asked Juan Bautista de Anza, captain of Tubac, and Gabriel de Vildósola, captain of Fronteras, to give him an account of Captain Elías González' infirmity in the spring of 1776. They reported in writing of his failing health, advanced age, and inability to perform on April 18, 1766, claiming that he "has not ridden a horse in His Majesty's Service" since at least 1763. (See AGN, PI 47, Juan de Pineda al Exelentisimo Señor Marqués de Croix, 18 de Abril de 1766, f. 100) Because of the Apache depredations in the north, and the Seri war that was taking place in the south, a substantial controversy developed over Elías González' advanced age and infirmities. Anza, who was but a mere boy four years when Elías González led his first military campaign in 1740, was the most critical. In a letter written in October of 1770 he said, "Elías has summoned the courage to write and ask the Colonel [Domingo Elizondo] to suspend sending [José Antonio] Vildósola to take over his company. Regarding that, he says that the reports that were made of his broken health are false and that he is in the most robust condition, able to handle the rigors of his employment. In light of that, it resulted that our Colonel immediately told him to come serve here [in the Cerro Prieto]. If that actually happens, I hope to go see if he bears up under the load. I do not know how else to prove what Your Lordship already knows -- that even when he was well, he was useless. This business is in the Colonel's hands. Indeed, he has already ordered Vildósola to be ready, because when Elías comes he will be ordered to hand over Terrenate. The Colonel also, according to information he provided, has resolved to go to the Cerro himself to confirm the arrival of Elías and verify his good health. I am persuaded that it will not happen, even if he could come by the Camino Real." (see BNM, 253/931, Anza al Señor Don Juan de Pineda, 31 de Octubre de 1770 años, ff. 19-21v) Because of a letter sent to José de Gálvez by Domingo Elizondo on August 14. 1770, outlining the poor health and inability to serve on the part of Don Francisco, Gálvez officially named José Antonio Vildósola to permanently take his place as the captain of the Terrenate Presidio. (See Jose de Galvez to Señor Don Domingo Elizondo, Octubre 6 de 1770, f. 177)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Pineda sent a letter to all his presidial captains – Bernardo de Urrea, Gabriel de Vildósola, Francisco Elías González, Juan Bautista de Anza, and Lorenzo Cancio – asking their opinions concerning the raising of militia companies. (see BNM, Núm. 229/907, *Copia de la carta del Gobernador Pineda as sus capitanes*, *Agosto 27 de 1766*, ff.2-2v)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> He evidently speaks here of the Seris and Pimas Bajos.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Presidial soldiers were required to provide their own horses and arms. Elías González is implying here that if militia companies were to be raised they should be provided a wage from which they could likewise supply their own needs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The presidial captains of the time were in universal agreement that infantry, for the most part, was ineffective in the rugged terrain and the extreme traveling conditions in Sonora as seen on pages 17 and 21 of this document where Elías González expounds on his feelings about infantry and regular troops from Spain and Mexico City.

<sup>17</sup> Visitor General of the Viceroyalty of New Spain for King Carlos III in Mexico City from 1765 to 1775.